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State Communities Aid Association

Mid-year bulletin, no. 9, June 1, 1909

New York

[1909?]

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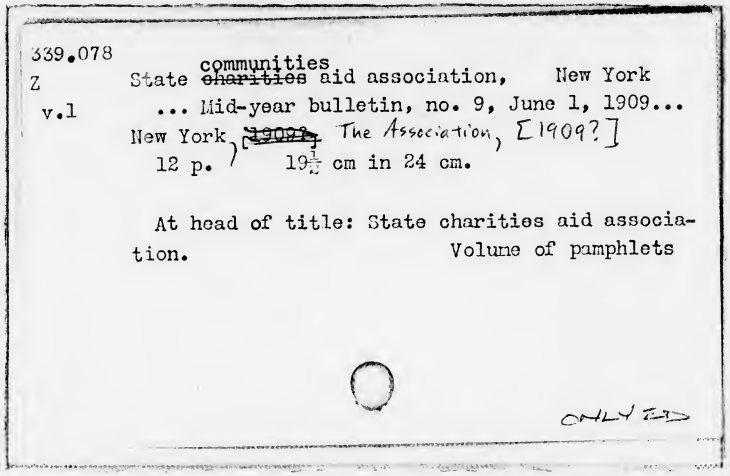

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STATE CHARITIES AID ASSOCIATION

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MID-YEAR BULLETIN

No. 9

[The purpose of the Mid-Year Bulletin is to state briefly the results of the work of the Association since the date of its annual report.]

JUNE 1, 1909

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This Association is supported by voluntary contributions: the total annual expenses are about $60,000.00.

OFFICE,
UNITED CHARITIES BUILDING
No. 105 East 22nd Street
New York City

LEGISLATION

Bills Proposed by the State Charities Aid Association.

1. **County Hospitals for Tuberculosis Authorized**—The great lesson of the International Congress on Tuberculosis held in Washington last October was the importance of hospital care of advanced cases, as a means of preventing infection. At present there is very little hospital provision for tuberculosis except in New York City. The bill authorizes counties to establish hospitals for tuberculosis entirely apart from almshouses and from hospitals for other contagious diseases. Each such county hospital is to be under the control of a Board of Managers. Any case of pulmonary tuberculosis may be received. Patients are expected to pay in whole or in part, if able.

2. **Ambulance Service in New York City Organized.**—This law was drawn to carry into effect the recommendations framed by our Standing Committee on Hospitals as the result of an extended study of the subject. The bill was amended, but preserved the important features of the first measure. As passed, it provides for the creation of a Board of Ambulance Service, consisting of the Police Commissioner, the President of the Board of Trustees of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, the Commissioner of Public Charities and two citizens appointed by the Mayor, who are given general control and direction over all ambulance service in the city.

3. **Classification of Hospitals for Contagious Diseases.**—This law defines more clearly the jurisdiction of the Department of Health, the Department of Public Charities, and the Board of Trustees of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals, in regard to the maintenance of hospitals for contagious diseases. The powers and duties of these departments in relation to contagious diseases had been thrown into great confusion by a court decision to the effect that the Department of

Public Health had exclusive jurisdiction over all hospitals for all contagious diseases, including the mildly contagious diseases, which have always been cared for by the Departments of Public Charities and of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals. The present bill adjusts statutory provisions substantially to existing facts, and permits the transfer of hospitals from one of these departments to another by the consent of the two departments and the approval of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, thus permitting a wiser and more effective classification of hospitals as the needs of the city change from time to time.

4. **The Support of Destitute Children by Local Authorities.**—This law amends the poor law to require municipal and town authorities to provide for the support of poor children. The statutory requirements hitherto related only to the County Board of Supervisors, although in many localities poor children are a town, and not a county, charge.

Bills Proposed by Others and Actively Supported by this Association.

5. **Changing Consents Required for Establishment of Hospitals or Camps for Tuberculosis.**—This law repeals what is known as the "Goodsell-Bedell" law, which required the consent both of the Town Board and of the County Board of Supervisors as a condition necessary to the establishment of any hospital or camp for tuberculosis. In the amended form in which it passed the Legislature, the provisions requiring the consent of the Town Board and County Board are eliminated, and the necessary permit may be granted by the local health officer and the State Commissioner of Health acting jointly, or, in case of a failure on their part to agree, by a board consisting of the Lieutenant-Governor, the Speaker of the Assembly, and the State Health Commissioner,—officials representing the State as a whole, and not the interests of any particular locality. It is believed that the passage of this law will greatly

facilitate the establishment of urgently needed hospitals and camps for tuberculous patients, on the part of both local authorities and charitable agencies, labor labor unions, and others.

6. **Relating to the Appointment of Probation Officers.**—This law amends the Code of Criminal Procedure to authorize local authorities to provide for the necessary expenses of probation officers, as well as for their salaries, and provides that probation officers in county courts shall be available for service in all other courts within the county. The bill was framed by the State Probation Commission, and among other provisions carries into effect the above suggestion in relation to county probation officers recommended in the message of Governor Hughes to the Legislature of 1909.

7. **Enlarging State Hospital for Tuberculosis.**—An appropriation of $286,000 was made for the construction of additional buildings at the New York State Hospital for Incipient Tuberculosis at Ray Brook. The number of applications for admission has very greatly increased recently, as a result of the campaign against tuberculosis.

Other Bills Relating to Charitable Interests Upon Which this Association Took no Action.

In regard to the following bills, all of which became law, the Association took no active part, but held itself in readiness to do so, if its assistance seemed necessary.

8. **Organization of Letchworth Village.**—This law provides for the appointment of a Board of Managers for the Letchworth Village, this being the new name adopted by the Legislature for the Eastern New York State Custodial Asylum for epileptic and other feeble minded persons, located at Thiells, Rockland Co.

9 **Appropriation for Letchworth Village.**—An appropriation of $30,000 was made for some of the necessary improvements for the Letchworth Village.

INSPECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The visitation of State, municipal and county institutions by disinterested citizens in their respective localities has been continued, and numerous reports as to existing conditions and needed improvements have been submitted to the responsible authorities.

The systematic visiting of the city hospitals, homes for the aged and infirm, and the Lodging House, in Greater New York by members of the New York City Visiting Committee, has been continued. The visitors have frequently conferred with officers of the departments and superintendents of institutions. There have been 24 meetings of the Committee, its Executive Committee or Borough Committees, at which matters of general interest have been discussed, and a large number of meetings of sub-committees. As important needs have been ascertained, written statements have been made to the Commissioner of Public Charities, the Trustees of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals and other public officials, the following being a partial list of such statements:

Oct. 12, 1908, a statement to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment commenting at length upon the estimates of the expenses of the Departments of Bellevue and Allied Hospitals and Public Charities for 1909; urging certain requested appropriations as especially necessary and pointing out some possible methods of economy.

Nov. 5, 1908, a memorandum as to suggested improvements in the preliminary plans of the new Bradford Street Hospital, Brooklyn (this was prepared in co-operation with the Hospital Committee of the State Charities Aid Association).

Nov. 10, 1908, a statement of certain needs at the New York City Farm Colony.

Nov. 14, 1908, suggestions concerning the list prepared for the Department of Public Charities of trees, shrubs, etc., for planting on Blackwell's Island.

Jan. 30, 1909, a letter submitting the suggestions of advisory landscape architects concerning the preliminary plans and specifications for the layout of the City Hospital and Metropolitan Hospital districts on Blackwell's Island.

Feb. 13, 1909, detailed comments and recommendations concerning the preliminary layout of the New York City Farm Colony, with the suggestions of a number of expert advisers as to the best types of almshouse construction.

Mch. 27, 1909, a memorandum submitted to the Commissioner of Public Charities concerning the City Children's Hospitals and Schools.

Mch. 29, 1909, a comprehensive and detailed statement of desirable improvements for the employes in all institutions of the Department of Public Charities, including recommendations for new buildings and for the employment of a salaried manager to look after the interests of employes, and other general suggestions for their welfare.

Apr. 2, 1909, a statement to the Commissioner of Public Charities of the more important needs of all of the institutions, bureaus, etc., and of the department in general, as observed by the members of the New York City Visiting Committee, for consideration especially in preparing a request to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment for issues of corporate stock for new buildings.

Apr. 2, 1909, a letter suggesting a plan for the establishment by the Department of Public Charities of the systematic assistance of outgoing hospital patients, by advice and reference to the appropriate societies, etc., to conserve the curative effects of their stay in the institutions.

Apr. 13, 1909, a brief summary of the work of members of the Committee on the City Children's Hospitals and Schools in visiting children discharged from that institution to their homes, securing improvement of home conditions where possible, and the co-operation of dispensaries, hospitals and charitable societies, to conserve the curative and educational effects of the children's stay in the institution and to prevent the recurrence of conditions leading to disease and poverty.

Apr. 20, 1909, a letter to the members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment supporting the request of the Commissioner of Public Charities for authorization to proceed with the erection of certain much needed buildings for the Department, for which appropriations had already been granted, but for the erection of which special permission was necessary.

Apr. 30, 1909, a letter to the Commissioner of the Department of Correction urging the securing of a dock in Manhattan for that department separate from the Dock of the Department of Public Charities, and the establishment of landings on the eastern side of Blackwell's Island to be used by the Department of Correction instead of those on the western side which are at present used by both departments.

The Committee has been of service to the Department of Public Charities in organizing an Advisory Committee on Landscape Architecture for Randall's Island to assist in planning the future development of the island.

Representatives of the Committee, on April 20, attended a conference of civic and charitable societies to consider methods of cooperation and of effectively presenting the views of such societies as to desirable changes to be made in the City's budget for 1910, as far as they may concern municipal social activities.

The Secretary of the Visiting Committee was appointed a member of a committee of this Conference "to keep volunteer civic and charitable agencies informed as to the progress of budget matters."

Members of the committee have made suggestions to the Superintendent of the Bureau of Dependent Adults in Richmond as to methods of keeping records in that bureau, which were approved.

An extensive study has been made of the provision for cripples in New York City with a view to cooperating with the orthopaedic department of the City Children's Hospitals and Schools, and to sending a subsequent letter of formal suggestions to the Department of Public Charities as to possible improvements.

The work of providing employment for the infirm has grown during the past year, and at the City Hospital efforts have been made to give the employment work a greater curative value for the patients, with the cooperation and under the direction of the Medical Board, which has expressed approval of what is being done.

WORK OF STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOSPITALS

The Association's two years' of work to secure a reorganization of the ambulance service of the city now seem likely to be crowned with complete success through the passage of the bill embodying the Hospital Committee's recommendations referred to on page 2.

The Hospital Committee has given considerable time to the study of the problem of the treatment of public intoxication, and has issued a pamphlet outlining the present methods now used in New York City and other cities, and also presenting the experience of England and other states of this country in the institutional treatment of inebriates. A comprehensive plan for a more adequate solution of the whole problem is recommended. The plan was put in the form of a bill amend-

ing the present city charter, but the session of the Legislature was so near an end that the pressure of other matters prevented the measure from coming to a vote, though it was reported favorably by the Senate Cities Committee. The pamphlet was widely circulated, and the plan proposed has met the approval of leading experts and authorities throughout the city, and it is confidently believed that another year's campaign will result in its realization.

An active campaign has been carried on in the 30th Ward in Brooklyn to secure an emergency relief station in that section, and it now seems very probable that the relief station will be established. Efforts are also being made at the present time to secure an emergency relief station on the west side of Manhattan between the New York and J. Hood Wright Hospitals to relieve the intolerable situation caused by the withdrawal of the Roosevelt ambulances.

WORK OF COMMITTEE ON PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS

As the scope of the work of this Committee is of state-wide proportions, the membership has been increased by the appointment of the following members from different parts of the State:

Mr. Jos. T. Alling, Rochester; Mr. Frederick Almy, Buffalo; Miss Mary Marshall Butler, Yonkers: Mr. Robert Cluett, Troy; Dr. Andrew S. Draper, Albany; Mrs. J. Sloat Fassett, Elmira; Miss Mary Fuller, Troy; Dr. Wm. Gibson, Utica; Mr. Charles Gibson, Albany; Mrs. F. R. Hazard, Syracuse; Mr. Dennis McCarthy, Syracuse; Mr. Daniel B. Murphy, Rochester; Rt. Rev. R. H. Nelson, Albany; Mr. E. F. Peck, Schenectady; Mr. Thomas R. Proctor, Utica; Dr. John H. Pryor, Buffalo; Dr. Oscar H. Rogers, Yonkers; Dr. Jacob Gould Schurman, Ithaca; Hon. John Williams, Albany.

The activities of this committee since Nov. 1, 1908 are summarized in the following:

1. **Local Educational Campaigns,** preceded by the usual investigation as to the extent of tuberculosis and the means in force looking toward its reduction and prevention, have been conducted in cooperation with the State Department of Health in Elmira, Binghamton, Oswego, Cohoes, Poughkeepsie, Yonkers, Middletown and Newburgh in the order named, the season's campaign closing in Kingston May 22. In the eight cities visited there have been held 105 meetings with an attendance of 111,397 at which 199 different speakers have appeared. Educational pamphlets to the number of 71,737 have been given out and 152,480 circulars, dodgers, pay envelope tickets, etc. all containing educational matter, have been distributed.

2. **After Care of Committees.**—A systematic supervision of committees already formed has been maintained through personal visitation by the Assistant Secretary and through correspondence.

3. **Correspondence Campaign and Information Bureau.**—The weekly press bulletin has been sent to newspapers and individuals as formerly with ever increasing popularity, the number sent weekly having been increased to 768. Since Nov. 1st, 35,593 pieces of literature have been issued from the central office; 797 lantern slides have been loaned for lectures other than those of the regular campaign; 13,366 circular letters, suggesting new lines of work to committees and enlisting support for important legislation have been mailed. The Manager of the Metropolitan Magazine was induced to distribute over 1,000 copies of the issue containing the first of a series of articles by Dr. Orlando F. Lewis on "The War on the White Death" to members of the local committees on the prevention of tuberculosis of the S. C. A. A. throughout the state; 75 copies of Van Norden's Magazine were sent out in the same manner. Through the central office a very extensive correspondence has been carried on. Special statistics, information as to hospitals, etc., have been furnished; plans for committees out-

lined, suggestions offered; in fact, all local efforts have been aided and strengthened.

4. **Labor Department.**—Mr. Philip V. Danahy, director of this department has visited 21 cities in the State to arouse the interest of the wage-earners, and to direct this interest into certain practical channels, He has spoken at public meetings, interviewed and spoken before delegates to the Central Labor Union in the cities visited.

Some of the results of these lines of work, not given in the annual report are:

1. **Of Educational Campaign and After-Care.**—Committees for the continuance of the work have been formed in seven of the cities named with a total membership of 408. Ontario county has appropriated $15,000 for a hospital for advanced cases of tuberculosis. The Poughkeepsie Committee has asked for $30,000 for a similar hospital. The week of the exhibition in Yonkers, the common council appropriated $60,000 for a hospital. Several other counties are realizing the need of suitable provisions for advanced cases, and definite action is looked for in the near future.

2 **Of Correspondence Campaign.**—A week of meetings was arranged in Ellenville, N. Y., and an exhibition sent. A committee was formed in this place and one also in Warrensburg, where notable educational work is being done. The affiliation of the Granges of Ontario county has been secured and a committee appointed. An exhibit has been sent to Geneva for use in school lectures. A sweeping campaign of the small towns and villages of Oneida county has been arranged through the county Y. M. C. A. and a complete exhibit will be sent for this use.

3. **Through Labor Department.**—At a critical time, Buffalo was greatly assisted in obtaining an appropriation of $250,000 for a tuberculosis hospital. The labor unions in five cities are contemplating the erection of tuberculosis pavilions. Every labor union in Orange county has sent resolutions to the Board of Supervisors asking for a tuberculosis hospital.

PREVENTION OF INSANITY AND AFTER-CARE OF THE INSANE

The work of providing temporary assistance, suitable employment, change of environment when desirable, and friendly aid and counsel, for patients discharged recovered from State Hospitals has been continued and extended. During the past six months work for the prevention of insanity in individual cases has been undertaken as a regular part of the work. Persons who appear to be in danger of breaking down nervously, and who if not assisted at the critical period might suffer a complete mental relapse, are given such help as their special needs seem to require. During the seven months ending April 30th, the Agent has made 456 visits to patients or to their relatives, friends or employers, provided 21 situations, and had under her care and oversight 100 patients. The volunteer committees working for the Manhattan, Central Islip, Hudson River and Willard State Hospitals have assisted patients discharged from the Hospitals in their districts.

WORK FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN

Placing Children in Families.—On October 1, 1908, 374 destitute children, who had been placed in permanent free homes remained in our care. **86 children have since that date been placed in carefully selected families.** The total number of children placed in homes since the work was begun in the summer of 1898 is 846 of whom 395 have been legally adopted. Although the majority of these children were infants under the age of two years, there have been only 27 deaths among the 846 children.

County Agencies for Dependent Children.—During the past six months three additional County Agencies for Dependent Children have been organized and have begun work, in Oneida and Dutchess counties January 1st, and in Herkimer county February 1st, and work preparatory to the organization of such agencies has

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been done in Nassau and Rensselaer. The following table gives statistics of the work in these three counties for the first few months:

Number of Children	Oneida Co.	Dutchess Co.	Herkimer Co.
Dependent Jan. 1, 1909	596	109	61
Added Jan. 1, '09 to May 1, '09	60	10	2
Discharged Jan 1, '09 to May 1, '09	61	32	9
to relatives	48	24	4
to free homes	8	2	0
otherwise	5	6	5
Dependent May 1, 1909	595	87	54
Kept from becoming dependent	23	54	2

The following table gives the statistics of the work of the agencies organized before this year:

Number of Children	Newburgh	Columbia Co.	Rockland Co.	Schenectady Co.	Montgomery Co.
Dependent Oct. 1, 1908	34	60	34	183	20
Added Oct. 1, '08 to May 1, '09	22	5	18	53	22
Discharged Oct. 1, '08 to May 1 '09	15	8	13	39	17
to relatives	9	6	7	21	9
to free homes	2	2	6	7	4
otherwise	4	0	0	11	4
Dependent May 1, 1909	41	57	39	197	25
Kept from becoming dependent	2	2	3	48	48

Providing Situations for Mothers with Infants.—On October 1, 1908, 568 mothers, with infants or young children, who had been provided with situations in the country remained in our care. During the following seven months 323 additional situations have been provided. Since the beginning of the work in 1893, 7091 situations have been provided.

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